

Legends of Soldier Summit

1. Some Say: Some departing soldiers from the abandoned camp Floyd (Fort Crittenden), under General Philip St. George Cooke were caught, unprepared, in a chilling blizzard, in July 1861 on the summit. A couple of the soldiers died during the snowstorm and were buried on the summit.¹
2. Another Story: Agnes that the troops moved up the creek now called East Fork of Soldier Creek, merely passed over the broad summit on their way east, but were not caught in a snowstorm.²
3. Tom Brackenbury in July 1984 related this story to Dr. R. Raymond Green: Six soldiers went AWOL from Cedar Fort. They came up Spanish Fork Canyon and got caught in a snow storm in _____ 1861 and froze to death. Someone buried them in a swale south of the present Soldier Summit.³

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Note: the same day, Dr. Green found an older man who had purchased the motel east of Brackenbury's Service Station and the old fellow showed Dr. Green a grave stone back in his coal bin.³

4. Another Story: Tragedy, a railroad boom and now near oblivion are the brief steps of history in Soldier Summit, one of the few communities in Wasatch County that lies outside Provo Valley. The ghost town of today had its beginning about 1862 in the midst of tragedy. Soldiers from Johnston's Army that had been stationed at Camp Floyd were recalled to aid in the Civil War. Desiring to return to the East as quickly as possible many of the soldiers started up Spanish Fork Canyon along the pass between the Colorado Basin and the Great Basin. Caught in a blizzard common to the high mountain country, they died from exposure. The bodies were buried near the pass at a spot which became known as "Soldiers Summit" in their honor.⁴

References:

- (1.) "Ghost Towns of Utah," by Dr. Carr p.71
- (2) Ibid
- (3) Personal Interview with Tom Brackenbury on July, 1984.
- (4) DUP Book: "How Beautiful Upon The Mountains," 1963 pp. 1117-1119.
- (5) "History of Soldier Summit" by Vern Jefferson 39 E street Springville, Utah